

## Revisions to Notifiable Conditions in Washington

Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-101 defines notifiable condition reporting in the state. Included in the WAC are notifiable conditions with associated responsibilities and time frames for reporting.

### Changes in Notifiable Conditions

On January 11, 2005, the Washington State Board of Health filed an amendment to WAC 246-101 that made changes in requirements for the reporting of notifiable conditions. These changes became effective February 15, 2005, and affect all reporters of notifiable conditions and recipients of reports, including healthcare providers and facilities, clinical laboratories, local health jurisdictions, the Department of Health, and others.

Beginning in 2001, certain conditions were made provisionally notifiable in Washington. Of those conditions, the following have been adopted as permanently notifiable:

- Birth Defects – Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Birth Defects – Cerebral Palsy
- Birth Defects – Alcohol Related Birth Defects
- Birth Defects – Abdominal Wall Defects by health care facilities only
- Chronic Hepatitis B (initial diagnosis and previously unreported prevalent cases)
- Acute Hepatitis C
- Chronic Hepatitis C (initial diagnosis and previously unreported prevalent cases)
- Herpes Simplex (neonatal and initial genital infection only) by health care providers only

Results consistent with hepatitis C and hepatitis B include detection of viral nucleic acid, antigen, or antibody.

The following condition, made notifiable August 3, 2004 by an emergency order of the state health officer, has been adopted as permanently notifiable:

- Arboviral (mosquito-, sandfly- or tick-borne) Disease

This condition replaces encephalitis, viral, which has been removed from the list of notifiable conditions. Examples of arboviral disease include confirmed cases of West Nile virus, dengue, and western equine encephalitis of any severity.

The following conditions have been dropped from the list of notifiable conditions:

- Streptococcus, Group A, Invasive
- Encephalitis, viral

Cases of invasive group A streptococcal disease should no longer be reported. Viral encephalitis as a category has been dropped, and cases of arboviral encephalitis should be reported as arboviral disease.

*Continued page 2*

**Vol. 10 No. 2**



*epi*TRENDS  
P.O. Box 47812  
Olympia, WA 98504-7812

Mary C. Selecky  
Secretary  
Maxine Hayes, MD, MPH  
State Health Officer  
Jo Hofmann, MD  
State Epidemiologist for  
Communicable Diseases  
Sandra L. Marvinney, BA  
Managing Editor  
Marcia J. Goldoft, MD, MPH  
Scientific Editor

### For More Information

More details about notifiable conditions in Washington are available from DOH at: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/notify/list.htm>

## Changes in Reporting Responsibilities

PROVIDERS and health care facilities should report suspected and confirmed conditions:

Condition	Report to	Time Frame
Arboviral disease	local health jurisdiction	three days
Herpes simplex (neonatal, initial genital)	local health jurisdiction	three days
Acute hepatitis C	local health jurisdiction	one month
Chronic hepatitis B and C	local health jurisdiction	one month
Birth defects	DOH Maternal Child Health	one month

LABORATORIES and laboratory directors should report these conditions as indicated:

Condition	Report to	Time Frame
Laboratory results consistent with arboviral disease	local health jurisdiction	two days
Hepatitis B and C	local health jurisdiction	one month

Reports are submitted to the local health jurisdiction of the patient's residence if it is known. If residence is not known, reports should be sent to the local health jurisdiction where the provider or facility is located.

Local health jurisdictions will receive and investigate reports of notifiable conditions. Notifiable condition reports should be submitted to the appropriate Department of Health program within seven days of completing the investigation:

### epiTRENDS Monthly Posting Alert

To receive monthly e-mail notification of epiTRENDS, please register at this website. Choose the option to join the listserve. Enter your name and email address.

<http://listserv.wa.gov/archives/epitrends.html>

## Contact Information for Reporting and Questions

### Arboviral Disease or Acute Hepatitis (reporting) Invasive Group A Streptococcal Infection or Viral Encephalitis (questions)

Communicable Disease Epidemiology Section

1610 NE 150<sup>th</sup> Street

Shoreline, WA 98155

Phone: 206-418-5500

Fax: 206-418-5515

### Chronic Hepatitis B or C

Jae Taylor

Infectious Disease and Reproductive Health Assessment Unit

P.O. Box 47838

Olympia, WA 98504

Phone: 360-236-3416

Fax: 360-586-5440

### Herpes Simplex

Anna Easton

Sexually Transmitted Disease Program

P.O. Box 47838

Olympia, WA 98504

Phone: 360-236-3441

Fax: 360-236-3470

### Notifiable Birth Defects

Jeanette Robbins

Maternal and Child Health Assessment

NewMarket Industrial Campus, Bldg 10, PO Box 47835

Olympia, WA 98504-7835

Phone: 360-236-3492

Fax: 360-236-2323

### New Phone Numbers

Phone numbers for Communicable Disease Epidemiology have changed and are posted on the CDE website: [www.doh.wa.gov/ehsphi/cd/default.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehsphi/cd/default.htm)

CDE Main Number  
(24-hour)  
206-418-5500